

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE PAST AND CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT HAVE MADE THE SUGAR PLANT IN FORT MORGAN, CO, A SUCCESS

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the past and current members of the community that have made the Sugar Plant in Fort Morgan, CO, a success. They are now observing the plant's Centennial Celebration. For 100 years the sugar plant has significantly impacted the economy of northeastern Colorado.

Sugar beets became a major crop in the Fort Morgan area in 1905. People in the community realized the potential impact of the sugar industry and began a drive to get a sugar factory constructed. A contract for construction was made with the provision that area farmers would agree to raise 1,500 acres of beets the first year, increasing to 3,500 acres the following years.

On August 31, 1905, the last day to contract the required beet acres, the committee was short 1,500 acres. Fort Morgan Mayor Farnsworth issued a proclamation for all business places to close from 2–2:30 p.m. so the entire community could focus their efforts to ensure a successful campaign. The first beets were sliced on December 26, 1906. The campaign lasted 55 days and 17,000 tons of beets were sliced. Lack of adequate water was a handicap in the early days, but in 1912 a well system and pumping plant was provided at the South Platte River to end the trouble.

The establishment of the sugar plant had several economic advantages for the area. The value of the land was increased, irrigated acreage jumped from \$40/acre to \$200–250/acre. Cattle feeding started in the area that used beet tops and beet pulp, giving year round employment to hired hands who had previously been out of work during the winter months. The first beet crop brought \$1,000,000 in cash into the county and the population of the county grew during that year by nearly 2,500.

The Tate & Lyle company acquired 6 operating plants from the Great Western Sugar Company in 1985 and 1986, including the Fort Morgan Plant. In the late 1990s Tate & Lyle decided to sell their sugar holdings in the United States. The growers in the four state area decided that if they were going to keep the sugar beet industry they would have to become owners themselves. The Western Sugar Cooperative was formed when over 1,000 individuals stepped forward and invested their trust and dollars into the purchase of the Western Sugar Company. After a number of false starts and many frustrating months, the purchase was closed on April 30, 2002.

The 2006 campaign saw 745,169 tons of beets sliced in 139 days, producing a net

1,660,132 hundredweight of refined sugar. The payroll for fiscal year 2005 in Fort Morgan was \$5,325,349 for 90 year-round workers and approximately 98 seasonal workers.

Throughout the years there have been 21 other sugar factories under various companies in Colorado. Today, there is one remaining—the Fort Morgan plant. Many changes have taken place during the past 100 years, however, the sugar factory remains an integral part of the agricultural and business communities. I am proud to honor the Great Western Sugar Cooperative and the Fort Morgan Sugar Plant for 100 years of successful sugar production and the positive impact it has had on families and communities in northeast Colorado.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL'S  
MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 435, congratulating the Magen David Adom Society on its admission as a full member into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Magen David Adom Society has a long and distinguished history of providing humanitarian assistance. Founded in 1930, this remarkable organization has provided first aid and disaster assistance to all of those in need, and has functioned as Israel's National Red Cross Society for over half a century.

Primarily a volunteer organization, the MDA provides aid to nearly 600,000 Israeli citizens each year and supplies 98% of Israel's domestic blood services. The MDA has also been deeply involved in providing assistance to international crises including the recent flooding in Romania and the aftermath of the Southeast Asian Tsunami.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the ICRC's decision to include the Magen David Adom Society on its membership and commend the MDA on its continuing contributions to the welfare of so many.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, as a Jew, as someone who loves Israel, and as a member of Congress, I stand in solidarity with the people of Israel.

I remain committed to a peace process for Israel's security and for the future of the Middle East. Unfortunately, that peace process and the relative calm that has been the reality in the region in recent months were violently attacked at dawn on June 25th when a Hamas terror cell infiltrated Israel through a tunnel, murdered two Israeli soldiers, and kidnapped 19 year old Corporal Gilad Shalit. The operation was praised by the Hamas government. This came after Israel had fully withdrawn from Gaza in September 2005, a move that offered the Palestinian people the opportunity to begin the development of their future independent state.

Then on July 12th, the Iran and Syria-supported Hezbollah terrorist organization crossed the internationally recognized border between Lebanon and Israel under a barrage of rocket and missile salvos, initially killing two Israeli soldiers and kidnapping two more. From positions in Lebanon, Hezbollah launched dozens of rockets laden with ball bearings indiscriminately at civilian communities in Israel. Israel fully withdrew from Lebanon in May of the year 2000. Last week's attack was so egregious that it prompted the leaders of Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan to condemn Hezbollah's act of vicious terrorism.

The premeditated, coordinated, and unprovoked terrorist attacks on Israel, from territory that Israel voluntarily conceded in an effort to promote peace and regional security, are absolutely indefensible. Hamas and Hezbollah bear direct responsibility for this current conflict.

Hezbollah receives military, financial and political support from Iran and Syria, with Tehran providing the terrorist group with an estimated \$100 million annually. Regular weapons shipments including Katyusha rockets, new long-range ballistic missiles, Chinese-made anti-ship missiles, mortars, anti-tank missiles, mines, explosives and small arms are sent to Hezbollah from Tehran through Damascus.

Iran and Syria have provided Hezbollah with more than 10,000 rockets, including shorter-range Katyushas and more sophisticated longer-range weapons, which the terrorist group is now firing at major Israeli population centers across northern Israel and beyond. In fact, on July 14th, Hezbollah used a Silkworm cruise missile to attack an Israeli ship, killing four sailors and yesterday, rockets slammed into a Christian-Arab neighborhood of Nazareth, a city respected by people of all faiths around the world.

Both Syrian President Bashar Assad and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have met with Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah in the past year to reaffirm their ties to the terrorist group. Ahmadinejad promised to continue to support Hezbollah's struggle against the "enemies of Islam."

Israeli and American officials believe Hezbollah would not have attacked Israel without a green light from its patrons in Damascus and Tehran, and the leaders of both countries

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have subsequently expressed strong support for the attacks on Israel.

The United States Congress has already enacted several laws, including the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, all of which call for the imposition of sanctions on Syria and Iran for, among other things, their support for terrorism and terrorist organizations. We must insist that President Bush bring the full force of political, diplomatic, and economic sanctions available to the Government of the United States against the Governments of Syria and Iran.

Sadly and frighteningly, Hezbollah remains off the European Union's (EU) terrorist list. This means that European nationals continue to provide Hezbollah with material support to this day. President Bush and Secretary of State Rice must make an immediate push with our European allies to have Hezbollah added to the EU terrorist list.

Israel has the responsibility to defend its citizens and cannot be expected to tolerate the violent provocations Hamas and Hezbollah committed this month. And while I am convinced that Israel is using every possible effort to avoid civilian casualties, it has become clear that the terrorists in Hamas and Hezbollah stage their actions from within civilian communities, thereby intentionally putting civilians at risk. Israel must do what is necessary to defend itself while continuing to make every effort to avoid civilian casualties.

As the New York Times stated: "Kidnapping Israeli soldiers to use as bargaining chips for the release of Arab prisoners is horrible behavior for groups that claim international recognition and political legitimacy, as Hamas and Hezbollah do. The same applies to lobbing rockets over Israel's borders in the hope that they might kill unsuspecting civilians."

It is long past due for the international community to implement fully UN Security Council Resolution 1559, adopted in September 2004, which calls for the Lebanese army to secure southern Lebanon's border and for Hezbollah to be disarmed and disbanded. Lebanon cannot be free and democratic so long as Hezbollah continues to operate as a state within a state, complete with its own army.

Regarding the Palestinians, the peace process will continue to be under attack until Hamas denounces its violent charter, rejects terrorism, and recognizes Israel's right to exist and decides it is more important to build a Palestinian state than destroy the Jewish State. I encourage Israeli leaders to maintain a dialogue with moderates within the Palestinian Authority in order to keep hope of a two-state solution in the near future alive.

But in the meantime, the United States must stand by its friend and ally, Israel, and the Bush Administration must actively engage itself in seeking a resolution to this situation. As a first step to restoring calm, the kidnapped Israeli soldiers in Gaza and Lebanon must be returned unconditionally and unharmed, and the indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israeli civilians by Hamas and Hezbollah must end immediately.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 921.

## CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today the world watches with sadness and grave concern as the Middle East is at war, civilians are being killed and maimed, and the possibility of a region-wide conflict grows by the day. People around the world watch this violence and ask what are the world's leaders doing to stop the killing, to end the bloodshed? We hear tough words, satellite television diplomacy, accusations and excuses, but no action or urgency to end the violence. With this type of global response we can all be tragically assured that our televisions will continue to show the horror, destruction and the suffering faces of innocents in Israel and Lebanon for some time to come.

I extend my prayers and heartfelt sympathy to the citizens of Israel and Lebanon who are suffering and grieving. Allow me to also extend my sympathies to Canada which also had citizens tragically killed in this conflict. In light of so many civilian deaths and destruction of infrastructure, it would be my hope and desire that the international community, led by the United States, would immediately start the difficult work of brokering a cessation to the killing and the start of a process to resolve this conflict through diplomacy rather than rockets and bombs. This is essential to allow the thousands of U.S. citizens to be safely evacuated out of Lebanon, as well as to prevent a much larger regional conflict from starting.

The entire world knows that Hezbollah, a terrorist organization, has provoked this conflict by illegally entering the sovereign territory of Israel on the border with Lebanon, abducting two Israeli soldiers and killing eight more. Today, this House rightly condemns this act and Hezbollah's on-going acts of terror with the passage of H. Res. 921.

The United States has a profound national interest in the security of Israel. The right of Israel and all sovereign nations to be secure and defend themselves from acts of violence and terror is clearly defined in international law. The action of Hezbollah to enter Israel on July 12, 2006 and commit acts of kidnapping and terror demands a focused military response that sends a clear message that terrorism will not be tolerated. The firing of rockets into Haifa and other Israeli cities and towns with the intent of killing and harming innocent civilians requires a firm, focused and proportional response against Hezbollah.

Yet, today, after a week of open warfare, there is the on-going destruction of civilian infrastructure in both Haifa and Beirut and more than 300 dead in Lebanon and at least 25 dead in Israel, overwhelmingly innocent civilians on both sides. In the near term, there is no prospect of security for Israeli or Lebanese civilians, only more death, destruction, fear and suffering on both sides. It is time for the international community to change this hopeless dynamic and immediately start to work to end this war using diplomatic power before it escalates and spreads throughout the entire Middle East. On the day of Hezbollah's incur-

sion into Israel, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said, "I want to make clear that the event this morning is not a terror act, but an act of a sovereign state that attacked Israel without reason." This statement explicitly attributes to the Lebanese Republic the responsibility for this aggression against Israel, not Hezbollah. This is of concern since there has been no evidence put forth that the nascent government of Lebanese Prime Minister Faud Siniora has any knowledge of or sanctioned Hezbollah's terrorist act.

Lebanon is being bombed, ripped apart, in response to Hezbollah's terrorism. This strategic response may offer short-term security for Israel, but it also has the very real potential of transforming Lebanon into a radicalized, failed state. How will Lebanon recover politically and economically when this war ends? It is inconceivable that when the bombing stops there will suddenly be an international outpouring of generous donors willing support to spend billions of dollars to rebuild Lebanon's destroyed infrastructure, re-invest in its evaporated economy, and salvage its threatened democracy. It is much more likely that a new generation will be radicalized by the loss of hope in the future. At this moment, the prospect of a land bridge—a terrorist highway—of failed states and rogue nations stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf is a scenario that has emerged and poses a major threat to global security.

I am disturbed at the diplomatic impotence of the Bush administration as it plays the role of a spectator watching this war escalate and the death-toll mount. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan is correct and to be commended for moving forward quickly to marshal international support to negotiate an immediate cease fire. I believe President Bush should join him in working to make a cease fire a reality. Furthermore, I strongly agree with Mr. Annan's call for a significant multinational force in Lebanon to secure the border with Israel, eliminate Hezbollah's military capacity, and help to establish the presence of whatever Lebanese army remains to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1559.

Of course there are many voices here in the United States that oppose diplomacy and are comfortably dismissive of the death, destruction and long-term consequences of this war. Today, an editorial in the Washington Post dismisses diplomacy by saying, "If Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice makes the mistake of visiting Damascus, Mr. Assad will roll out the red carpet; then he will offer to stop the rocket and missile fire against Israel by Hezbollah and Hamas, on Syria's terms. The result will be to restore Damascus's influence in Lebanon and destroy the new independent, democratic government in Beirut—which has far more to fear from such a deal than from Israel's cratering of its airport runways and bridges." This "let them fight" sycophancy from the comfort of a safe office in the U.S. rather than a bombed out apartment or office building in Beirut ignores the obvious—Lebanon's democracy is being destroyed and it is a country on a path to becoming a failed state, as well as a haven for terrorists for years to come, unless the international community intervenes to change the current equation and establishes a guarantee of security for civilians.

It is important to remember that on April 18, 2006, President Bush appeared at a White

House with Lebanon's Prime Minister Siniora and said, "There's no question in my mind that Lebanon can serve as a great example of what is possible in the broader Middle East; that out of tough times the country has been through will rise a state that shows that it's possible for people of religious differences to live side-by-side in peace; to show that it's possible for people to put aside past histories to live together in a way that the people want, which is, therefore, to be peace and hope and opportunity."

Three months later Prime Minister Siniora's nation is in a war zone, Israel is under attack daily from Hezbollah rockets, and the United States is content with waiting for the outcome of a conflict which threatens our vital security interests. It is shocking, sad and disturbing turn of events.

Today we pass H. Res. 921 and recommit our support for Israel as it is under attack from a terrorist organization. Our prayers are with the families in Israel that want security, peace and hope. At the same time, my prayers are with the people of Lebanon who reject terror and have rebuilt their country over the past decade after years of civil war. Israeli cities and towns are being terrorized by Hezbollah rockets that should be targeted and destroyed, but I do not believe the massive attacks launched against civilian targets in Lebanon are justified.

The U.S. has an obligation to stand with our ally as well as advance our vital interests in the region—security for Israel and the survival of Lebanon. Defending these interests is complicated and extraordinarily difficult because Israel is not secure and Lebanon may not survive. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has chosen the path of apathy, not diplomatic action. It is absolutely essential that the U.S. engage the region, hold terrorists accountable, and mobilize the Arab world, along with our European allies, to end the terrorist attacks on Israel while providing Lebanon with the support and resources needed to survive and excise Hezbollah. To do anything less in the upcoming days allows the possibility for an escalation into a global security and economic nightmare that will bring this Middle East war home to America.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHEL CONLEY

#### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Officer Michel Conley of the Estes Park Police Department.

On July 31, 1976, Officer Conley and his wife Phyllis were driving up the Big Thompson Canyon. Throughout that afternoon and evening, 14 inches of rain would fall in just over 4 hours time during a tremendous thunderstorm. The rain had brought a large boulder down the canyon, obstructing the road where it came to rest.

Conley stopped and headed to a nearby lodge to alert State patrol of the obstruction. By this time the rain was heavy and the canyon was in danger. Conley, though off duty, acted with the bravery and sense of public service with which he served as a police officer and began to alert residents and visitors in the canyon, telling them to get to high ground.

He notified somewhere between 75 and 175 people, saving them from the 20-foot wall of water that came rushing down the canyon, sweeping away roads, cars, and buildings in its path. Conley's wife was able to get to higher ground, but he was not. As the wall of water came sweeping toward him he climbed a telephone pole in a desperate attempt to get above the water, but the pole was swept away and Officer Conley lost his life. Along with Officer Conley, 143 people lost their lives in the devastating flood.

At the time, the Estes Park Police Department had no formal way of honoring officers who lost their lives in acts of such honor. However, on the 30th anniversary of the flood, and his heroic efforts to save the lives of those in danger, he will be honored with a medal of valor. Today I stand to honor his selfless act of heroism. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"—John 15:13. Officer Conley did so for mere strangers and I pay tribute to his valiant act as we remember the legacy of one of the worst natural disasters in the history of Colorado.

#### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, during these troubled times it is more important than ever for the United States to express its firm commitment to the State of Israel.

Since the very beginning of its existence, Israel has been a vital ally of the United States, enjoying a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect.

The State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation 58 years ago, and it continues to be a strong friend of the United States and a beacon of democracy in the Middle East. Our democracy must stand by democratic governments such as Israel as their existence is threatened by the forces of totalitarianism and extremism.

The people of Israel have worked tirelessly to live in peace with their neighbors in the Middle East, and I commend them for their efforts. Unfortunately, that fragile peace has been shattered by the acts of terrorists bent on death and destruction, and Israel must be allowed to defend itself against these attacks.

Today a multitude of my fellow Chicagoans will join in a rally at the Federal Plaza to express their solidarity with the State of Israel. I commend these citizens and the organizers of the rally, including the Jewish Federation of Chicago. I also commend the Jewish United Fund for its financial contributions to help move children and refugees out of the northern region until this conflict is resolved.

Madam Speaker, I wish peace and prosperity to return to the region for all of its people. But a just and lasting peace can only be achieved with an end to terrorism. We stand with the State of Israel in that fight.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in strong support of a veto override for H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. It is clear that a majority of Americans and a bipartisan majority in Congress strongly support embryonic stem cell research because it could prove to be critical for some 128 million Americans who suffer from juvenile diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, and other diseases.

Stem cell research is essential for the future of medicine in America; one that should be allowed to transcend political lines so that critical gains can be made to save millions of human lives. One such life is that of my constituent, 24-year-old Bishoy Abo-Saif. In his letter to me, Bishoy described his daily struggle with cerebral palsy. He has been to Canada, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Poland and the Ukraine looking for alternative therapies for his disease. Nothing has worked. Even though he has accomplished academic goals, he still feels he is on the sidelines. As he stated to me, "the wheelchair is always in the way." However, he said that, "stem cell treatment is the only hope to overcome his condition."

Most scientists agree that embryonic stem cell research offers the greatest hope to people like Bishoy. America has always been on the cutting edge of new innovation and now we stand on the brink of groundbreaking medical advancements that would dramatically alter the lives of people such as Bishoy. We must not prohibit this promising research.

But the opponents of this measure have put forward disingenuous arguments that fly in the face of widely accepted scientific research and proven potential. They wrongly portray the decision on funding for additional stem cell research as a choice between one life or another. In fact, we are choosing between disposing of embryonic stem cells or using those cells to save countless lives and advance lifesaving science in previously unrealized ways. It is incomprehensible that anyone would allow politics and personal preference to trump hard facts and science. And, like the overwhelming majority of Americans, I am deeply disappointed and dismayed over President Bush's decision to issue his first veto on this bill, dashing the hopes so many families who are battling critical illnesses have pinned on the promising potential of stem cell research.

President Bush acted to snuff out the hopes of millions of Americans only to please a small right-wing constituency which has politicized this medical issue. Once again, the Bush administration has put politics before science sadly taking hope and health away from countless families. We should not delay or deny the potentially lifesaving research offered by stem cell technology. Bishoy and millions of other Americans are counting on us. As Bishoy stated in his letter, "our hopes and

dreams are in your hands, please do not shatter them. Allow me and others to regain what we have lost."

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the veto override to H.R. 810.

PARK RIDGE, IL,  
July 17, 2006.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SCHAKOWSKY: My name is Bishoy Abo-Saif. I am 24 years old. Currently I am studying for my Master's degree in Social Work, at Dominican University, in River Forest, Illinois. However, I feel that I live in two completely different worlds. These two worlds could not be further apart. Since birth I have had severe physical limitations caused by a condition called Cerebral Palsy. I am one of the lucky few who is not affected cognitively by this devastating condition.

I am writing to you today to implore you to support H.R. 810, for this piece of legislation is vital to millions of people who are afflicted with my condition and other neurological disorders. Since I was diagnosed, at 9 months of age, my parents' mission was to help me lead a normal life. Unfortunately, the many doctors we visited painted a very bleak picture. A picture, which had no light at the end of the tunnel. One doctor after the other kept telling my parents that I would never walk. Cerebral Palsy is a condition that affects people in different ways. It ranges from severe to mild. Despite the years spent in physical and occupational therapies, the progress is always minimal at best, much to the dismay of the patients and their families.

In our efforts to beat the odds, we kept looking for alternative treatments outside the U.S. We went to Canada, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine. The success of these treatments was very limited. Many were not covered by our insurance and the trips were arduous.

To this end, H.R. 810 holds the key to unlock the chains that trap me and others in my condition from experiencing life as it should be experienced. Ever since I was a child, I could not experience activities which other children take for granted. I never knew how it feels like to run or jump, or hit a ball.

Even now despite the fact that I have accomplished academic goals, I still feel that I am on the sidelines, so to speak. The wheelchair is always in the way.

Stem Cell treatment is the only hope to overcome this condition. Doctors have made great strides with animal experiments in the lab. It has been proven that Stem Cells have the ability to regenerate the damaged cells in the brain.

Stem Cell treatment is the catalyst for great progress in the field of medicine. It is the answer to many unsolved medical conditions. This Congress has the opportunity to make history by voting for H.R. 810, which will make a real tangible difference in the lives of the millions for whom Stem Cell treatment is the only answer. People will be able to take steps, regain function of their legs, hands, and affected parts of the brain will regenerate. People will become whole. Our hopes and dreams are in your hands; please do not shatter them. Allow me and others to regain what we have lost.

H.R. 810 is an imperative piece of legislation which will change my life and the lives of millions of other people like me.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

BISHOY ABO-SAIF.

## PROPOSED FEDERAL LOAN TO THE DAKOTA, MINNESOTA AND EASTERN RAILROAD

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an unprecedented federal loan that is fraught with risk, would enrich a private company at public expense and threatens the people of my state, Minnesota, as well as one of our state's most treasured institutions—the Mayo Clinic.

The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad, DM&E, is seeking a massive federal government-sponsored loan of \$2.5 billion through the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Program to expand rail infrastructure in order to transport coal from fields of Wyoming's Powder River Basin. To sell this taxpayer-financed scheme to Congress and residents along the proposed line, the railroad is making big promises. But go beyond the promises and a troubling picture emerges—one stained with questionable accounting, dubious ethics and the threat of real harm for Minnesota communities and institutions.

As a Member of Congress, I am strongly opposed to asking taxpayers to provide an unsecured \$2.5 billion loan to the DM&E, a company that an established, independent firm, Bearing Point, found to be "a poor credit risk." Bearing Point's assessment of the railroad concluded: "DM&E currently appears to be a thinly-capitalized, low-volume railroad," whose "asset acquisitions were funded largely by government loans and subsidies." Mr. Speaker, I have attached a description and summary of the Bearing Point analysis for the RECORD.

A recent report from the federal Office of Management and Budget shows the stakes for taxpayers are high since the federal government—U.S. taxpayers—would be responsible for covering all losses if DM&E defaults on the loan. Still, the railroad and their powerful friends in Congress who have greased the wheels for this scheme show no hesitation in taking taxpayers for a ride and offer no assurances that \$2.5 billion of our tax dollars will be paid back.

Our nation is spending hundreds of billions of dollars to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while federal budget deficits are adding trillions of dollars of debt on the backs of our children. Yet some of my colleagues in Congress appear eager to gamble unprecedented public funds on a risky railroad scheme that will profit politically connected business executives and leave hard working taxpayers with all the risk. This is bad public policy and it is bad business. The proposed \$2.5 billion, no-collateral loan is more than all the loans ever granted by the Federal Railroad Administration combined. In fact, this loan would be one of the largest ever granted by the federal government to any private company.

Why does the DM&E need to seek this massive federal support? Could it be that private sector investors who have a fiduciary responsibility to invest soundly know a boondoggle when they see one? Unfortunately, it appears the DM&E has been far more successful in attracting Members of Congress who seem willing to ignore their responsibility to the American people to ask the tough ques-

tions and demand protections and accountability. It is not Congress' role to be the lender of last resort for high risk, private sector boondoggles. This is all the more true considering the threat the DM&E project poses to Minnesota.

The proposed DM&E line would send dozens of mile-long coal trains through the heart of Rochester, Minnesota every day. Any threat to Rochester's continued growth is a serious concern for Minnesota since it is one of the fastest growing cities in the state and an anchor of Minnesota's high-tech economy. Rochester is best known as the home of the renowned Mayo Clinic. The Mayo Clinic is one of the world's premier medical centers, an economic engine for Minnesota and a health care asset for our entire country. This week's US News & World Report "Best Hospital Issue" celebrates Mayo's success, ranking the Clinic among the country's top medical facilities for treating illnesses ranging from cancer to kidney disease.

The 95,000 residents of Rochester expect the trains to tie up traffic and cause daily headaches for local business owners. Mayo Clinic doctors and researchers anticipate the trains will create an environment hostile and incompatible with the work of a world-class medical facility that relies on sensitive medical equipment and conducts delicate scientific testing. In addition to impacts on the community's long-term economic prosperity and quality of life, the railroad expansion also raises imminent safety concerns.

The DM&E's proposed expansion would annually direct thousands of trains through downtown Rochester at a speed of 50 miles an hour. Several of Rochester's downtown rail crossings are only hundreds of yards away from the Mayo Clinic. A derailment or hazardous materials spill at any of these locations would be disastrous for local residents and Mayo's vulnerable patient population.

In fact, the DM&E has one of the worst railroad safety records in America. In the past 6 years, 17 people have been killed and 93 people have been injured in 227 DM&E accidents at public and private rail crossings. In 2004, the DM&E reported train accidents at a rate over 13 times higher than the national average, and one of these accidents created a hazardous material spill that forced the evacuation of 100 citizens in my home state. The Federal Railroad Administration itself announced as recently as October 2005 that DM&E has "serious safety problems." I urge the Federal Railroad Administration to take into account this dreadful safety record and the risk to Minnesota residents this proposed expansion poses.

Wrapping a profit driven scheme in the thin veneer of public good, the DM&E and its supporters in Congress are pushing a bad deal for Minnesota and imposing a financial risk upon America's taxpayers that is irresponsible and unjustifiable. The Federal government does need to make major new investments in transportation infrastructure, but investments consistent with our national goals and in a transparent process that allows Congress to conduct necessary oversight and stewardship of scarce tax dollars. Public dollars should support taxpayer priorities, not the whims of one company and their patrons in Congress. As is too often the case today, Congress has had no opportunity for oversight, no opportunity to ask hard questions of the DM&E and

protect taxpayers from one corporation's sweetheart deal that smells worse by the day. This \$2.5 billion loan to the DM&E should not be allowed take place and taxpayers in Minnesota and across the United States should be outraged at this pork barrel corporate welfare giveaway.

LETTER OF PRESENTATION—MAY 8, 2006

This purpose of this report is to inform Members of Congress, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Railroad Administration ("FRA"), and others of issues surrounding the \$2,500,000,000 loan application of the Dakota Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation ("DM&E") under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing ("RRIF") program.

The broader purpose of the RRIF program is the improvement and expansion of the nation's railroad system. Nevertheless, the program is organized as government loans, not government grants. Therefore, borrowers must exhibit the ability to repay the loan.

In its RRIF loan review capacity, the FRA is charged with responsibility for assessing applications. Each loan application must be approved on its own merits, taking into consideration (among other things) the creditworthiness of the borrower.

DM&E has filed an application for a \$2,500,000,000 FRA loan. Based upon our review, we have serious concerns about the ability of DM&E to repay such a loan. We believe that the applicant may not meet the minimum requirements for the approval of such a loan.

Based on the limited available data, DM&E appears to be an undercapitalized and financially precarious company. However, because DM&E is a private company with little financial disclosure, we are limited in our ability to fully assess the company's financial strength or weakness. As a result, no concerned citizen has adequate information to fully assess DM&E's FRA loan application.

The nondisclosure of the DM&E financial data has been rationalized by the competitive nature of the information contained therein, on the belief that disclosure of even rudimentary financial information would compromise the company's ability to compete in the railroad industry. However, many railroad companies are publicly held, fully disclosing detailed financial information without compromising their competitiveness.

We believe that the primary risk to DM&E of disclosure of its financial status may not be the loss of any competitive advantages, rather the disclosure of its financial weaknesses and unsuitability for the RRIF loan.

Given the available public information concerning DM&E's plans, supplemented with the expertise of consultants in the railroad industry, we have endeavored to construct a reasonable facsimile of what we believe to be DM&E's current economic realities and to forecast the results of the proposed Powder River Basin project assuming extension of the FRA loan.

Our financial projections and assessments utilize dated materials from DM&E's Surface Transportation Board ("STB") application of 1998, as well as more recent information, taking into account the fact that costs, markets, and industry financial conditions have changed materially since that date. We have updated these projections based on the comprehensive knowledge provided by railroad industry consultants, G. W. Fauth & Associates, Inc., and Gerald E. Vaninetti.

If the FRA believes that it should disregard the economics associated with DM&E's proposed project and that non-financial, public policy reasons require approval

of its loan application, then FRA must require collateral in the form of a Credit Risk Premium (CRP). Under current law, this CRP must now be based on DM&E's potential "going concern value." Based on this approach, we have determined that FRA should set a CRP of approximately \$1.4 billion which represents 57% on the loan amount.

To the extent that our information or assumptions are dated or at variance with DM&E's financial statements, internal projections or the contents of its loan application, we welcome the opportunity to review those financial statements.

We note that the DM&E's submissions to the STB were public documents. While the FRA is allowed to keep application data private, it is not required to do so. Like the STB, the FRA could disclose this information to lawyers and independent consultants under a protective order. This is by far the largest FRA loan of its kind, suggesting that the FRA may want to reexamine its non-disclosure policy.

We believe that citizens whose taxpayer dollars may be at risk have the right to inform the FRA of concerns regarding DM&E's \$2,500,000,000 loan application. Only with transparency of the loan application and approval process can the integrity of a fair and honest system be assured.

### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 921.

We must fully and clearly condemn the attacks on sovereign, undisputed Israeli territory as the terrorist attacks that they are. The June 25th murders and kidnapping carried out by Hamas are an act of war. The July 12th murders and kidnappings carried out by Hezbollah are an act of war. As a sovereign state, Israel has the right to defend itself and its citizens from these attacks.

Hezbollah must immediately stop its attacks on innocent Israelis. All provisions of United Nations Resolution 1559 calling for the complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the dismantlement of all independent militias in Lebanon must be fully implemented. Iran and Syria must end their proxy war with Israel at the expense of the Lebanese, Israeli, and Palestinian people.

Israel has the right to defend itself from these most recent criminal attacks, but I believe Israel must show restraint and limit civilian casualties as it struggles to end the threat posed by the terrorist organization Hezbollah—an organization which is responsible for more American deaths in recent decades than any other group except Al Qaeda. The Lebanese government must be able in the future to provide security within its own country and return to the path of peace and mutual security. That is the path of hope.

We all look toward the day when a secure Israel can live in peace with its neighbors, including a sovereign democratic and peaceful Palestinian state. If we are ever going to reach that goal, a goal shared by a majority of the world, then the United States and the inter-

national community must be fully diplomatically engaged in ending the terror and violence suffered in the region. My thoughts and prayers are with the innocent Israelis, Palestinians, Lebanese and foreign nationals who are all in harm's way.

I condemn this new escalation of violence and the terrorist attacks on Israel. I join my colleagues in standing with our ally Israel during this time of struggle. I call on the terrorist groups to release their hostages and turn away from the path of violence. I pray for lasting peace and mutual security and prosperity for all who suffer through this terrible conflict.

FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the provisions of this important civil rights law, the Voting Rights Act. The origins of this law are the truest reflection of our Nation's struggle and aspiration to build a better country for all of its citizens. We have made great advances. This does not mean that we have overcome. We still need to make great strides in our road toward building a more perfect union.

The Voting Rights Act was necessary in the 1960's because for over 100 years, in certain parts of our country, millions of U.S. citizens had their right to vote limited or denied just because of the color of their skin. Those were not our country's proudest years.

Is the Voting Rights Act important today? Yes. The problems in our country that led to the enactment of this law are not in the distant past. Our work is not done. Our country still struggles to find the path of equality and "The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization Act" is still needed to keep us on the right and just path in our country's historic democratic experiment.

I celebrate the great accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement and the political leadership of the time that led to the enactment of the Civil Rights Legislation and the crowning achievement, the Voting Rights Act. The importance of this law can be seen in every election where minorities have the right to elect people that truly stand for their interests; every time someone is able to mark a ballot with instructions in a language that he or she can understand; and every time unfair elections conditions are corrected to be just and fair for all citizens. Mr. Speaker, this law is needed because there are still acts of discrimination taking place. We still need the Voting Rights Act.

Now, I know there are those who believe this is a political party issue. But this is not a Democrat or Republican partisan issue—this is an American issue and this bill has bipartisan support.

I urge you to show your support for protecting the right of all Americans to vote. Vote in favor of this historic reauthorization and vote against all the amendments presented today. The only true aim of these amendments is to weaken this bill and weaken our country's democratic values.

# CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 921, which condemns the recent attacks against the State of Israel and supports her right to defend herself. The United States has no closer ally in the Middle East and, at this difficult and troubling time, it is essential that the United States maintain its steadfast commitment to Israel and all her people.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with Israel, her brave citizens, the captured soldiers, and all the innocent people on both sides of the border with Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. It is important that America supports Israel as she defends herself against the deadly and destructive acts of terrorists. Those who committed these heinous attacks must know that they will not succeed in destroying the State of Israel, nor will they diminish the spirit of the Israeli people.

Each day brings more rocket attacks from Hezbollah that target innocent civilians in northern Israel. These attacks must be stopped, and to do so Israel has the right to go after the Hezbollah terrorists who launch them from southern Lebanon with the assistance of Syria and Iran.

Despite the commitment and good faith efforts made by Israel to build a lasting peace in the Middle East, the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah engaged in unprovoked attacks on Israel and kidnapped three of her soldiers. Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip, but Hamas responded with violence. Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon, but Hezbollah responded with terrorism. These terrorist organizations are killing innocent Israelis despite every attempt to demonstrate their genuine commitment to peace.

I hope that this crisis ends soon. In fact, I think it would be beneficial if the United States helped to arrange a cease fire, but Israel will and should maintain control of her own security. The experience of the last weeks reaffirms the right of nations to defend themselves against acts of terrorism, especially by organizations that are part of sovereign governments. But there are other lessons for those who do not live in the Middle East.

First, when there are opportunities to support moderate governments, we must do so. Part of the reason Hezbollah is still in south Lebanon is because it is backed by Iran and Syria, while the government of Lebanon was left without similar strong backing from the international community, including the United States.

Second, we must also remember the fact that extremism incubates in societies ravaged

by poverty, hopelessness and humiliation. We cannot eliminate terrorism simply by suppressing terrorists. We must also lift up the societies and groups upon which terrorists rely for their recruitment.

And third, when confronting terrorists, every effort must be made to protect the civilians around them and prevent destruction to civilian communities. We cannot win the battle of ideas and prevail in the fight against extremism if the people we are trying to lift up are reduced to living in rubble.

Madam Speaker, the bible recounts many miracles performed by God. And miracles seemingly have helped Israel flourish since its independence. As the first Prime Minister David Ben Gurion once said, "in Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles." I still strongly believe in the dream that has become the wonderful reality of Israel.

I urge my colleagues to support Israel and to support this important resolution.

# CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today with full and strong support of H. Res. 921 and stand by our good friend Israel. Israel is once again under attack from ruthless regimes residing within the borders of their Arab neighbors.

At this very moment, Israel is engaged in defensive measures against the terrorist organizations Hezbollah and Hamas in response to their recent indefensible actions. These fanatical fringe associations have engaged in kidnapping and murdering Israeli soldiers and have sent over a thousand rockets into civilian Israeli neighborhoods. It is these terrorist groups that threaten peace in the Middle East and security for both Israeli and Arab peace-loving peoples.

The actions taken by Israel are simply an effort to rescue their kidnapped citizens as well as take out as many of the 14,000 Katyusha rockets controlled by Hezbollah and the unknown number of Qassam rockets controlled by Hamas already aimed at Israel. In taking action against Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel is exercising their unquestionable right to self-defense against unprovoked attacks on its sovereign territory by terrorist groups.

Israel exercised great restraint in not responding to the four separate rocket attacks on its people over the past year. Since Israel's handover of Gaza, the terrorists there have used that territory to launch more than 1,000 rocket attacks in the past 6 months alone. They act now because they must.

Hezbollah is not only a significant aggressor and threat to Israel, but has also been a sworn enemy of the United States. Before 9/11, it had killed more Americans than any other terror group. It was in 1983 that Hezbollah killed 257 Americans when they bombed the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut.

Perhaps the most troubling scenario in all of this is who is actually pulling the strings in

these attacks. Since its inception, Hezbollah has received active support from Iran and Syria, which provide the terrorist group with an estimated \$100 million annually. Iran has also actively helped fund Hamas which has also claimed some responsibility for the kidnappings that precipitated this turmoil. Iran's leaders proudly declare that "Israel should be wiped off the map."

I urge the nations of the Middle East to join with the State of Israel in condemning the horrific actions of these evil terrorists and in promoting real peace and stability for all people of the region.

I wish the Israeli people safety and security and pray for a quick resolution in these troubling times.

# STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the veto override of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. This bipartisan legislation would expand Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

The House approved this bill last year and it won U.S. Senate approval yesterday. However, despite the measure passing both Chambers of Congress, the President has vetoed the legislation, the first of his presidency. I am disappointed the President chose this bill to be his first veto.

The American Medical Association and 92 other organizations, including scientists and researchers support H.R. 810. Federal funding would enable further research to examine many new lines of stem cells—increasing the potential for cures. Each year 8,000 to 10,000 embryos created for in-vitro fertilization are destroyed. H.R. 810 would allow federally funded research of stem cells, which scientists believe can yield cures for diseases and injuries, to be harvested from surplus frozen embryos that are stored at fertility clinics and slated for destruction.

Human embryonic stem cells are prized because they can replicate themselves and become almost any type of human tissue. We all know someone who can benefit from the research. Science should prevail over politics.

President Bush's veto is standing in the way of hope and progress in curing many diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease, some cancers, and spinal cord injuries. This veto has ignored our country's healthcare needs and has slowed the potential to eradicate life threatening and chronic diseases.

The President did not make the right choice. This critical life-saving bill is greatly needed. I urge my colleagues to support the veto override and reaffirm Congress' support of life-saving medical research.

## PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I am a strong supporter of the Pledge of Allegiance. I believe "under God" should be in the Pledge of the Allegiance. But what I cannot support today is legislation that basically tells the third branch of our government, go home, no thanks, we don't need you anymore.

Judicial review has been a part of our democracy in this constitutional government for over 200 years. And now with the fancy language embodied in this legislation and other pieces of legislation that have been pending, they are trying to disrupt that delicate balance of power, the checks and balances that exist that allow the Federal courts from time to time to take a look at the work that we are doing in the Congress to see whether or not we are complying with the highest law of the land, the United States Constitution. That is what judicial review is all about.

What is so ironic about today's debate is that the courts have already weighed in and said that the Pledge is okay; "under God" is okay. So what are we doing here when we have anemic economic job growth in this country, rising health care costs, and tuition that is placing college out of the reach of students? We can do better by the American people.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
JOHN HENRY LENEAR

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. John Henry

Lenear, dedicated husband, father, grandfather and friend, whose brilliant legacy as a journalist has served to elevate the lives of all who knew him and his work.

Mr. Lenear's convictions, framed by integrity and wisdom, consistently graced the pages of Cleveland's oldest and Ohio's most respected African-American newspaper, the Call & Post. During his decades-long career as a newspaperman, his unwavering focus and commitment to our African-American community's struggle for civil rights and equal opportunity for all helped shape public policy throughout the State of Ohio.

As an objective and conscientious journalist, Mr. Lenear developed strong ties with local, county, State and Federal government officials. Mr. Lenear's sense of compassion for those in need reflected in his numerous volunteer efforts and leadership, which included providing tangible assistance through neighborhood programs designed to help pave a way for individuals to rise above the cycle of poverty and despair.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. John Henry Lenear, whose life and legacy served to bring critical issues into the rational light of day and whose deep sense of humanity will continue on in raising our own individual and collective humanity. I offer my deepest condolences to his entire family and to his many friends. John Henry Lenear lived his life with energy and joy, and the memories of his affable nature and kind heart will forever light the hearts of all who knew and loved him well, and will forever shine throughout Cleveland, OH and far beyond.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. BONILLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my solidarity with the State of Israel in its ongoing struggle against terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah. Despite U.N. Resolution 1559 which demands the disarming

of Hezbollah, the organization still operates as an armed force in Lebanon threatening the stability of the region and freedom throughout the world. In fact, prior to September 11, 2001, Hezbollah was responsible for more American deaths due to terrorism than any other organization. This organization continuously fires rockets into Israel, and on July 12 conducted an unprovoked attack into Israel, killing at least three soldiers and kidnapping two.

It is without question that Israel is exercising its inherent right of self-defense by taking action against Hezbollah. Israel's military actions appear appropriate to prevent the further removal of the two kidnapped soldiers into Syria or Iran. It is clear that Hezbollah is supported by direct financial, military, and political aid from Syria and Iran, and Hezbollah also receives important support from sources within Lebanon. In fact, Iranian Revolutionary Guards continue to operate in southern Lebanon, providing support to Hezbollah and reportedly controlling its operational activities.

Congress has already enacted several laws, including the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 which call for the imposition of sanctions on Syria and Iran for, among other things, their support for terrorism and terrorist organizations.

Israel is and will continue to be one of our greatest allies. Some examples of their cooperation include Israeli produced Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, UAV, that have been used by the United States military to identify targets, survey damage caused by bombs, and provide air support for United States soldiers. The United States military is also currently using Bradley Reactive Armor Tiles, BRAT, originally designed by the Israeli military. One hundred United States Bradley vehicles, which were installed with BRAT, overcame direct anti-armor fire and repelled each attack successfully in Iraq. Most importantly, however, Israel is among our strongest allies in the global war on terror. No free nation can allow this scourge to continue to grow and spread unchecked. The brave and proud people of Israel are standing up to terror and we must stand with them.